I am nowe take and stande vnder danger
Holde streight that I may not flee
A dewe my songe and alle my notes cleer
Nowe that I haue loste my liberte
Nowe I am thrall where somtyme I was free
And truste wele whyle I am in distresse
I can not synge nor make no gladnesse

And though my cage forged were of golde
And the pynacles of berell and cristall
I remembre a prouerbe said of olde
Who loseth his fredom forsothe he loseth all
For I had leuer vpon a braunche small
Merily to synge among the woodes greene
Than in a cage of siluer bright and shene

Songe in prison hath none acordance
Trowest thou I wyl synge in prison
Songe procedeth of Joye and of plesance
And prison causeth deth and destruction
Ryngyng of feters is no mery sowne
Or how shold he be glad or Jocunde
Agayn his wille that lieth in cheynes bonde

What auayllyth hit a lyon to be a kynge
Of bestes alle shette in a toure of stone
Or ay egle vnder streyte keppynge
Calledy also kynge of fowles euerichone
Fy on lordship whan liberte is gone
Answere herto late hit not asterte
Who syngeth merily that syngeth not at herte

And yf thou wilt reioyse of my syngynge
Late me goo flee fer from alle daunger
And euery day in the morenynge
I shal repayre vnto thy lalbrer
And fresshly synge with lusty notes cleer
Vnder thy chambre or a fore thyn halle
Euery season whan thou liste me calle

To be shette vp and pynnedy vnder dede
No thynge acordeth vnto my nature
Though I were fedy with mylke & wastell brede
And with caudes brought to my pasture
Yet hady I leuer to do my besy cure
Erly on morowe to scrape in the vale
To synde my dyner among the wormes smale

The thirde is th
Forgete hit not o
For treſour loſt ma
Whiche in no Wyſe
For Who ſorowbeth
Rekene firſt his loſſe
Of one ſorowe he

After this leſſon the birde
Of her eſcape gretly
And remembrid her a
Soon by the chorle firſt at her
Of her affraye and of her env
Glady that che was at lar
Sayd to hym houyng aboue his h

Thou were sayd che a verray natural fo
To ſuffre me departe of thy lewdenes
Thou oughteſt of right compleyne & make
And in thyn herte to haue grete heuynes
That thou haſt loſt ſo paſſing grete riches
Whiche might ſuffyſe by Valew in rekenyng
To paye the raunſon of a mighty kyng

[illegible]agouree
[illegible]yn entraylle
[illegible]eth [illegible]nce
[illegible]arnetis of entaylle
[illegible]ous in bitaylle
[illegible] hym this stone
[illegible] his mortal soon

[illegible]e in his possession
[illegible]ere ne none indigence
[illegible] haue plente and ioyson
[illegible]ay shal do hym reuerence
[illegible] shal do hym none offence
[illegible]es now that I am goon
[illegible] thou wilt/ for thy part is noon

[illegible]e causeth loue hit maketh men gracious
[illegible] fauorable in euery mannes sight
[illegible] maketh accorde betwene folk enuyous
[illegible]eseeth sorowfull/ maketh hem hertes light
Lyke expasion of colour sonnyssh bright
I am a fool to telle alle attones
Or techie a chorle the pris of precious stones

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